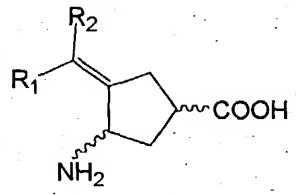
We claim:

1. A γ-aminobutyric acid aminotransferase inhibitor compound selected from compounds of a formula



wherein R_1 and R_2 are selected from H and F, and at least one of R_1 and R_2 is F; and salts thereof.

2. The inhibitor compound of claim 1 wherein R_1 and R_2 are F.

3. The inhibitor compound of claim 2 wherein said NH_2 and COOH substituents have a stereochemical relationship selected from cis and trans.

4. The inhibitor compound of claim 3 wherein said substituents are cis.

5. The inhibitor compound of claim 2 selected from an ammonium salt and a carboxylate salt of said compound.

6. The inhibitor compound of claim 5 wherein said compound is an ammonium salt, and the counter ion is the conjugate base of a protic acid.

7. The inhibitor compound of claim 5 wherein said compound is a carboxylate, and the counter ion is selected from the conjugate acid of an amine, alkaline and alkaline-earth base.

8. The inhibitor compound of claim 5 wherein said compound is selected from an ammonium hydrochloride salt and a sodium carboxylate.

9. The inhibitor compound of claim 1 wherein one of said R_1 and R_2 is F.

10. The inhibitor compound of claim 9 wherein R_1 is F, and said F and COOH substituents have a Z configuration.

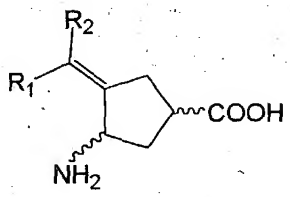
11. The inhibitor compound of claim 10 wherein said NH_2 and COOH substituents have a stereochemical relationship selected from cis and trans.

12. The inhibitor compound of claim 9 wherein R_1 is F, and said F and COOH substituents have an E configuration.

13. The inhibitor compound of claim 12 wherein said NH_2 and said COOH substituents have a stereochemical relationship selected from cis and trans.

14. The inhibitor compound of claim 9 selected from an ammonium salt and a carboxylate salt of said compound.

15. An enzyme-inactivator complex comprising the addition product of a γ-aminobutyric acid aminotransferase and a compound selected from compounds of a formula



wherein R_1 and R_2 are selected from H and F, and at least one of R_1 and R_2 is F; and salts thereof.

16. The enzyme-inactivator complex of claim 15 wherein R_1 and R_2 of said compound are F.

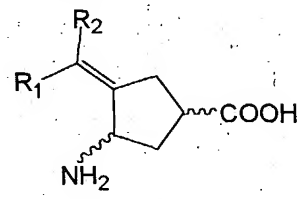
17. The enzyme-inactivator complex of claim 16 wherein said NH_2 and COOH substituents have a stereochemical relationship selected from cis and trans.

18. The enzyme-inactivator complex of claim 15 wherein one of said R_1 and R_2 is F.

19. The enzyme-inactivator complex of claim 15 wherein said compound is selected from an ammonium salt and a carboxylate salt of said compound.

20. The enzyme-inactivator complex of the claim 15 wherein said addition product further comprises a pyridoxal-5′-phosphate cofactor.

21. A method of inhibiting a γ-aminobutyric acid aminotransferase comprising contacting a γ-aminobutyric acid aminotransferase with an effective amount of a compound selected from compounds of a formula



wherein R_1 and R_2 are selected from H and F, and at least one of R_1 and R_2 is F; and salts thereof.

22. The method of claim 21 wherein R_1 and R_2 are F.

23. The method of claim 22 wherein said NH_2 and COOH substituents have a stereochemical relationship selected from cis and trans.

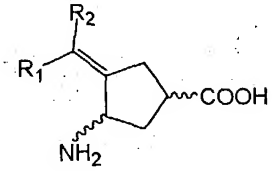
24. The method of claim 21 wherein one of said R_1 and R_2 is F.

25. The method of claim 21 wherein said aminotransferase enzyme comprises a pyridoxal-5′-phosphate cofactor.

26. The method of claim 21 wherein said compound is selected from an ammonium salt and a carboxylate salt of said compound.

27. A method of using an electron-deficient exocyclic methylene moiety to inhibit γ-aminobutyric acid aminotransferase activity, said method comprising:

providing a compound selected from compounds of a formula



wherein R_1 and R_2 are selected from H and F, and at least one of R_1 and R_2 is F; and salts thereof; and

contacting a γ-aminobutyric aminotransferase with said compound, said exocyclic methylene moiety of said compound capable of binding to an active site of said aminotransferase.

28. The method of claim 27 wherein R_1 and R_2 are F.

29. The method of claim 28 wherein said NH_2 said COOH substituents have a stereochemical relationship selected from cis and trans.

30. The method of claim 27 wherein one of said R_1 and R_2 is F.

31. The method of claim 27 wherein said aminotransferase enzyme comprises a pyridoxal-5′-phosphate cofactor.

32. The method of claim 27 wherein said compound is selected from an ammonium salt and a carboxylate salt of said compound.